



Governor meets with country's two oldest, both Hoosiers

April 21, 2007

Governor Mitch Daniels participated in a historic meeting with the country's two oldest people, both Hoosiers, and celebrated Edna Parker's 114th birthday by honoring her with a Sagamore of the Wabash.

The governor and Mrs. Parker, whose birthday was Friday, visited Bertha Fry, 113, who traveled from her home in Muncie to the Heritage House Convalescent Center in Shelbyville. Members of both families also marked the occasion.

"I bring you birthday greetings from everyone in the state. We're all so proud of you," said Daniels while presenting the Sagamore to

Mrs. Parker. "I've come to say happy birthday, and I thought I might learn from you."



The governor visits with Edna Parker of Shelbyville, the country's oldest person and the second oldest person in the world.

According to the Gerontology Research Group, Mrs. Parker is the country's oldest person and Mrs. Fry, who was born December 1, 1893, is the second oldest person in the country. Both supercentenarians are among the top five oldest people in the world. [Read the news release.](#)

Indiana among quickest to respond to constituents' emails

April 23, 2007

Indiana was ranked among the quickest states to respond to constituents' emails according to Josh Goodman, a reporter for Governing magazine/governing.com. Goodman's test on how quickly state governments reply to constituents' emails was published in the April 2007 edition of The Governing Management Letter.

Goodman contacted each state using the electronic contact information and identified

himself as a reporter who was testing the responsiveness of the governor's office, advising each state to respond quickly in order to score best.

Indiana responded in seven minutes, second only to Nevada who responded in three minutes. Less than half of the states responded within 24 hours. Two didn't respond at all.

To view the full article, [click here.](#)

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Army to invest \$100 million in Muscatatuck; major training exercise to be conducted in May

April 17, 2007

Governor Mitch Daniels, with Major General R. Martin Umbarger, the Adjutant General of the Indiana National Guard announced that the National Guard and the Department of the Army have entered into an agreement to partner in the transformation of the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center. Nearly \$100 million will be invested over the next six years to transform it into a major training facility for the Army.

The urban training center will be developed in two phases, beginning this year and extending to 2012. Muscatatuck will be transformed to replicate a city environment, in which Army units of all sizes can prepare for operations in urban settings. The Army will invest \$97.3 million toward the operation and enhancement of the site. When fully operational, it is expected that 40,000 active and reserve component soldiers will train there each year.

In addition, the National Guard Bureau and the US Northern Command said that they will conduct a full-scale homeland defense preparedness exercise in Indiana from May 10 to May 18, much of it at Muscatatuck.

The two exercises will be coordinated to replicate a real-world response to a major terrorist attack in the homeland. The scenario will be that of a simulated detonation of a nuclear device in a major metropolitan area with Muscatatuck replicating the targeted city. [Read the news release.](#)



Governor Daniels traveled to the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center near North Vernon to further discuss the Muscatatuck announcement.

Governor opens 14 miles of new trails for public use



April 19, 2007

Governor Daniels joined community leaders and officials from Cardinal Greenway to officially open 14 miles of new greenway as a part of the state's plan to develop a comprehensive system of trails.

The new section of Cardinal Greenway includes seven miles of paved trails and seven miles of equestrian trails, extending through the towns of Blountsville and Losantville. [Read the news release.](#)